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Services Division
European Satellite Committee

Meeting of 5 November 1958

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Present: [REDACTED] S/COM; [REDACTED] S/CST; [REDACTED] S/TF;
[REDACTED] S/TR; [REDACTED] A/E;
[REDACTED] W/AG; [REDACTED] W/NF; [REDACTED] St/I/D. 25X1A9a

The Committee attempted to tackle the problem of collection, dissemination, and translation of foreign periodicals and books. The analysts working on the European Satellites seem to be encountering the same difficulties in this respect, though not all at the same time on each obstacle. This problem is of paramount importance because most of the best material on the economies of the Satellite countries is unclassified information in foreign publications. The number of professional and technical magazines available now are a bonanza undreamed of a few years ago.

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First, there is the problem of getting a foreign periodical, yearbook, or other publication. A number of analysts said they had ordered a periodical and then never received it or never heard anything from it. Mrs. [REDACTED] St/I/D, said the analyst has to initiate the check if a periodical is not received, and then her office will try to find out the reason for the delay. Analysts reported too that yearbooks were not received in sufficient quantities for use by ORR analysts. The instance was cited when only two East German yearbooks were received for use by the numerous analysts in ORR. There was reportedly a security problem in buying a large number of copies, but the analysts feel that there are ways of procuring more.

The next problem once these foreign publications are received in the agency is for them to be properly exploited. Analysts in the three different divisions represented reported that the support given by FID on exploitation and translation had fallen off, in some cases to practically nothing--although it was not at the same time in all cases. Consequently, the finished intelligence report suffers if source material is inadequate--a particularly frustrating experience for the analyst when he thinks there is something available on the subject.

However, since the analysts are not getting proper support from FID, the analysts discussed ways of handling the problem on their own. For instance, it was pointed out that there are some general publications that will occasionally have an article on a special sector--such as agriculture. It is not profitable for the Agriculture Branch to subscribe to the periodical and read it every month for the small amount gotten out of it. However, the article should be called to the attention of the analyst following that particular sector. It was proposed that the European Satellite Committee be used as an informal medium for bringing

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these articles to the attention of the interested analyst. Thus the analysts with linguistic ability who receive such periodicals could report occasionally on their contents at the Satellite meetings.

25X1A9a Mrs. [REDACTED] pointed out a couple of listings of periodicals which can be perused in the library. One is a master list of all publications available to CIA--listed alphabetically and geographically. Another is an annotated listing Foreign Language Serial Publications (FID Summary 1414, July 1957). Also the Library of Congress, East European Accessions List has listings of all East European (except East German) publications received by the Library of Congress, with translations of the titles of major articles. Mrs. [REDACTED] suggested, too, that an airmail subscription be placed for some of the general publications and the statistical bulletins, and that a copy be placed on reserve in the Library upon receipt of the publication.

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Because of the complexity of this problem and the genuine feeling of the analysts that something should be done about it, this discussion will be continued on November 12. Also, at that time the Committee will discuss topics for future programs. The meeting will be held at 1330 hours in Room 1121 M Building:

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[REDACTED]
Secretary

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